

Our Core Principles



WOPEN

Shaping Practices Influencing
Policies Impacting Lives

WOPEN 2023

www.wopen.org



Women Peace Builders Network (WOPEN)

Motto: *“Love, Tolerance, Peace and Security”*.

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We are a women and young women community with a shared mission to promote mediation and peaceful practices for women's rights and social justice. We celebrate and cherish the diversities that exist among us. Our backgrounds, realities, methods, and contexts are diverse. But we share a common understanding of the world we see now, and the world we envision form the base of this common understanding. As individuals, organizations, and as a collective, these principles affirm our beliefs and values, guide our efforts, and inspire our work for peace and justice, and human rights for all. For a world where all women and young women are equal and free from discrimination and oppression. These Core Principles are intended to be seen in conjunction with the WOPEN Internal Rules Constitution and Code of Conduct.

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1. We Stand for Women's Rights, Peace and Justice

We recognize that women and girls continue to face significant gender injustices and human rights violations around the world. This must urgently change. We work towards this change through dismantling the roots of gender-based violence and injustices. We honor the historical struggles and achievements of feminist women's rights movements. We commit to working in allyship with feminist women's rights organizations, networks, and movements. We respect feminist leadership, voices, and spaces. We support feminist demands and political agendas. We seek to transform unequal gendered power relations. We strive to free women, men, and people of diverse gender identities from the impact of restrictive gender and sexual norms

2. We Embrace Feminism

We seek to understand how gender inequalities show up in relation to other injustices, such as homophobia, transphobia, racism, ageism, ableism, xenophobia, classism, or based on faith-based and/or religious beliefs or backgrounds. We recognize that people are impacted differently by

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oppression, and that some people are impacted in multiple ways at the same time. These layers of oppression and intersecting issues disproportionately impact women and girls, gender non-conforming people, people of color, disabled people, and ethnic minorities. We aspire to be guided by those who have been disproportionately marginalized by various forms of oppression, discrimination, and injustices.

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3. We Support Human Rights

We abide by the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and other International Human Rights Instruments. We commit to advocate and hold governments accountable so that they recognize, uphold, promote, and protect human rights for all.

4. We Work to Disrupt and End Conflict

We recognize that conflict exist and it affects everyone in all societies. We understand the various forms of conflicts, which collectively grants power over women and girls. We work to promote peace through mediation. We strive to transform the political systems of privilege and power that support mediation. We believe in the universal bond of solidarity and love. We see ourselves as part of collective movements towards a future based on sustainability, care, and wellbeing for all in all its diversity.

5. We strive to address racism and its root causes

We acknowledge that we exist within, and are part of, histories and systems of white supremacy, colonialism and racism. We stand against colonialist, nationalistic, and ethnic oppression in any

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part of the world. We recognize the urgent need to challenge racism in all its forms, including, anti-Blackness, and anti-Indigeneity globally. We make space for ongoing collective reflection, education, and action for racial justice. We go beyond being non-racist, to being actively anti-racist. We recognize the ways colonialism continues to have a profound impact on gender inequalities and other forms of oppression and exclusion around the world. We strive to embody and promote inclusive structures in which power is equally shared across nations and communities.

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6. We believe that transformation must begin with ourselves

We acknowledge that we exist within and as part of oppressive systems, and that transforming them means also transforming ourselves. Personal transformation is deeply interwoven into social change. We promote ongoing reflective practices among men and boys for transformative awareness of themselves, of others, and of the systems from which complex social problems arise. We strive to remain conscious of the harms inflicted by patriarchy, racism, colonialism, capitalism, religious fundamentalism, and their interconnected oppressive systems. We give space for personal and collective healing; self and collective care. We bring our whole selves our bodies, our emotions, our minds, and our values to the work to eliminate patriarchy.

7. We are Accountable for our Actions, and Decisions

We welcome criticism and feedback. We commit to taking it on board, and learning, growing, and responding in accountable ways. We commit to listening to, consulting with, and partnering with feminist women's rights organizations and diverse movements for racial justice, youth, economic and justice, peace, religious freedom, and many others. We hold ourselves accountable to these feminist partners in the contexts where we work. We strive to be accountable to the communities,

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organizations, partners and groups that are impacted by our work, activism, behaviors, attitudes and practices. We foster democratic, transparent, and power-sharing approaches. We see accountability as fundamental to a world of shared power, equality, and justice.

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